

HB 2166 with HCA 1 TO HCA 1, HCA 1 AS AMENDED -- LOBBYIST  
EXPENDITURES

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill changes lobbying regulations by banning expenditures made by lobbyists to state public officials and removing reporting requirements no longer necessary because of this general ban on expenditures.

Certain exceptions to the definition of expenditures are added to current law involving honorarium, fees for speaking engagements, flowers and plants, items returned or donated to charity, and customary gifts.

The bill also requires individualized reporting by lobbyists on their expenditure reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission for events unless all members of the General Assembly or a statewide elected official's office are invited to the event. If all members or a statewide office holder is invited in writing, then total aggregate amounts may be used on the reports.

HCA 1: Removes the exception for "honorariums" from law.

HCA 1 to HCA 1: Includes HCA 1 and also removes exceptions to the "gift" definition involving flowers and plants, returned items, and items customarily received and limits the exception to the gift ban involving accomplishments to items of \$50 or less.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is a common sense anti-corruption measure which will increase public trust in the General Assembly.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Alferman and Empower Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.